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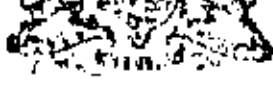
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A. S. WATSON & CO.,

LIMITED.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

ESTABLISHED 1841.

SCOTCH WHISKY.

- A—THORNE'S BLEND, White Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark, \$10.50
- B—WATSON'S GLENROCH MELLOW BLEND, Blue Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark, 10.80
- C—WATSON'S ABELOUR-GLENLIVET, Red Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark, 12.00
- D—WATSON'S H.K. BLEND OF THE FINEST SCOTCH MALT WHISKIES, Violet Capsule, 14.40
- E—WATSON'S VERY OLD L. QUEEN SCOTCH WHISKY, Gold Capsule, 15.00

THORNE'S BLEND and WATSON'S GLENROCH are high class Soda Whiskies, of greater age than most brands in the market.

ABELOUR-GLENLIVET is a very old Peat Whisky, (smoky) and could not now be replaced in stock at the price.

D is well known for its fine flavour. E is of superb quality and pronounced by leading local connoisseurs to be the best brand in the Hongkong market.

A. S. WATSON & Co. LIMITED.

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ESTABLISHED 1841.

Hongkong, 14th Jan. 1888. [24]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Only communications relating to the news columns should be addressed to this office.

Correspondents must forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not to publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

No anonymous or signed communications that have already appeared in other papers will be inserted.

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Telephone Address: Press—A.S.C. Code.

P.O. Box 20. "Telephone No. 12."

The Daily Press.

Hongkong, September 5th 1888.

While all eyes have been directed to the movements of Russia in the North, comparatively little attention has been bestowed on French movements in the South. A yellow book has recently been issued containing the diplomatic correspondence on the affairs of China for 1894 to 1898. Our Shanghai contemporary *L'Echo de Chine* has published a series of articles on this yellow book, reproducing the principal despatches and summarizing the general results. Our contemporary is of opinion that France has been fairly successful in her policy, and the opinion is not without warrant. The despatches may be divided into two series, one dealing with the establishment of a sphere of influence, politically and commercially, and the other with the protectorate of Catholic missions. It is with the first only that we need concern ourselves. Reference is made to the delimitation of the Tonkin frontier, and in giving a despatch upon this subject the *Echo* remarks that "it is superfluous to say that the delimitation had been made in the most favorable sense for us." But having marked out the boundaries of her property it was necessary, continues the article, for France to take guarantees against the risk of having troublesome neighbors. "The establishment of a privileged position in the three provinces bordering upon Tonkin—Yunnan, Kwangsi, and Kwangtung"—is a work which, thanks to a succession of events, the one completing the other, is "now almost entirely concluded." The Supplementary Commercial Convention of the 20th June, 1895, opened to French trade the three stations of Tongling, Hokeou, and Szamoa, and provided for the establishment there of French Consular agents. On the 1st February, 1897, in consequence of the opening of the West River obtained by England, M. HANOTIAUX instructed M. GERARD "to claim compensation in order to re-establish the equilibrium thus disturbed to our detriment." Instructions were sent from Saint Petersburg to the Russian representative at Peking to support the demands of his French colleague. The energetic action of M. GERARD were crowned with what our contemporary terms success, that is, a promise was given never to alienate the island of Hainan. "In consequence of the action of Kinkow to Germany," the occupation by Russia of Port Arthur and Tientsin, and the advantages of "various descriptions accorded to Great Britain, we also had to make effective the titles that we possessed to positive guarantees of the friendship of China."

Accordingly a lease of Kwangchow was acquired, and a guarantee of the inalienability of the provinces of Yunnan, Kwangsi, and Kwangtung. This guarantee is in terms practically identical with those in which the guarantees given to Great Britain respecting

the non-occupation of the Yangtze Valley is given. The precise value to be attached to such guarantees is a point still to be determined. Recent proceedings in Parliament show that the point as affecting the Yangtze Valley has been exercising the minds of our legislators, but without leading to much enlightenment. It will be remembered, too, that it was stated in the House of Commons the other day that a guarantee identical with that given to France had been given to Great Britain in respect of the provinces of Yunnan, Kwangsi, and Kwangtung, and seeing that similar guarantees might be given to any number of Powers they cannot be regarded as in themselves setting up spheres of influence. This is recognized by our French contemporary, which says that the guarantees up to this point "constitute a privilege of a purely negative order. It was necessary to give them positive and practical applications. This conjointly with their properly political action our representatives at Peking used all their efforts to assure to France the usufruct of a domain the real ownership of which we did not wish to pass into other hands." Accordingly, a concession was obtained for the Compagnie des Flives-Lille for the construction of a railway from Langson to Langchow, together with a promise of a further concession for a line from Langchow to Nanning and Pao. Thus a "route of penetration" into Kwangsi was obtained. The same was necessary for Yunnan. An arrangement was therefore made that China should improve the channel of the Upper Red River and repair the roads leading to the provincial capital. On the 9th April, 1898, a further concession was made. In a despatch to M. DUBAIL, the Tangli Yamen declared that "The Chinese Government accords to the French Government or to a French Company to be designated by the latter the right to construct a railway from the Tonkin frontier to Yunnanfu, the Chinese Government having no charge beyond supplying the land for the road and its dependencies. The price for this line is now being made and will be fixed hereafter by agreement between the two Powers." Further, in a despatch dated 28th May, 1898, M. PICHON announced to M. HANOTIAUX that "The Chinese Government has consented to our demands for a railway from Pakhoi to the West River. It is understood that none but a French or Franco-Chinese company may construct any railway starting from Pakhoi." In concluding its summary our contemporary says: "Finally, our economic position in the three provinces bordering upon Tonkin was consolidated by paragraph 2 of the 'agreement of the 12th June, 1897, which 'supplemented, conformably to article 5 of the Supplementary Commercial Convention of the 20th June, 1895, in the three provinces of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Yunnan, the Chinese Government for the exploitation of its mines 'shall apply for the assistance of French engineers and mechanics.' With reference to the latter point we think it may be at once taken for granted that the British Government would not accept such a reading of this agreement as would oxidize British mining enterprise from the Kwangtung province. With reference to railways Great Britain might advantageously follow the formula adopted by the French and demand for the British Government or a British Company to be nominated by it the concession for a railway from the Kowloon border to Canton and beyond. A study of the French correspondence emphasizes the necessity for marking out spheres of influence, otherwise, wherever British enterprise turns in China it may be confronted with paper concessions obtained by other nationalities for the express purpose of obstructing and thwarting it. If we decline to recognize spheres of influence we may see foreign railways brought right up to our Kowloon boundary, or if the lines themselves are not constructed the applications of British subjects to construct them may be refused on the ground that concessions have already been granted to other parties.

The *Olympia* and the *Rohlf* left for Manila on Saturday.

The Trade Mark Rules, made under Ordinance 18 of 1898, are published in the *Gazette* on Saturday.

General Merritt and his aides-de-camp and secretary left Hongkong on Saturday for Europe in the *Chusan*.

A list of persons licensed to shoot and take game within the colony is published in the *Gazette* for general information.

At the Magistrate's on Saturday a firearm was filed \$500 for having in the possession 10 loads of prepared opium and 47 tins of opium dross.

A Chinese newspaper is to make its appearance weekly at Waikei, the name of the new publication being the *Weekend Daily News*.

A portion of the Imperial troops recently engaged against the rebels in Kwangtung are to be sent to Siam to suppress a disturbance in that neighborhood.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Netherland Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals—Shing On, \$20.

The Committee of the Victoria Recreation Club, as will be seen by an advertisement in another column, request the pleasure of the company of ladies in the enclosure of the Bath-house on Thursday next on the occasion of the annual aquatic sports.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. A. B. Brown has been allowed to resign the acting appointment of Registrar-General and that Mr. Dyer has been appointed to act in that capacity. Mr. Ball returned from leave of absence by the last English Mail.

The boatmen at Peking struck the other day, on account of the opening of the waterway to steam navigation, and pulled with sticks every steam-launch that made its appearance and the junk and mung boats that did not join in the strike. The strike intervened in the matter, with the result that traffic was resumed on the 2nd inst.

As a house-boy in the employ of Mr. T. Jackson, manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, was walking down Gilders Street on Friday night he was taken suddenly ill and died within half an hour. The body was taken to the public mortuary, where it was examined by Dr. Thompson, who certified that the cause of death was apoplexy.

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THE AMERICANS AT MANILA.

ADMIRAL DREYFUS HAYOURS THE RETURN OF LIZON.

THE NEW GOVERNOR.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 30th August.

Major-General Merritt, his three aides, Major

Mott, Hale, and Slothmore, and his secretary, Mr.

Mott, leave today for Paris via Hongkong in the

steamer *China*. General Merritt is to be present at the

meeting of the commission in Paris to determine the disposition of the

Philippines, either as a member of the commission or as an expert to aid the United States

representatives in their negotiations. It is understood that

Admiral Dreyfus was asked by the Washington Government to be present at these

important deliberations, but that he respectfully declined, saying that his place was for the present here.

He was requested then to leave what portion of his staff he wished to take with him to Paris for the purpose of the

sub-vention of their trip. It is reported on good authority that the Admiral pointed out that Lizon, if any, was the island to be held.

The only report in connection with General Merritt's going is that he is not more familiar with the vast resources and unlimited opportunities of the islands as well as acquainted by personal observation with the people and their wants and needs. This is not Merritt's fault, but his time has been taken up with the administration of military and civil affairs here that he has not had time to study the situation in all its phases, including those which most necessarily come up for consideration before the commission at Paris. His aide is a bright man, but his experience is even more limited than that of the General. What surprises us most is that none of these naval and army men, who have made a special study of the Philippines and have been here a much longer time than Merritt and his staff were selected to accompany him. There are also some civilian authorities in the field who were looked, but it is hoped that General Merritt will be equal to his task in his knowledge, experience, and statesmanship and prove a good representative of Uncle Sam. We expected to hear that either Consul-General Williams or Consul Williams would be ordered to Paris, but up to the present have learned of no such instructions coming from Washington. Their acquaintance with the conditions in the Philippines and the Far East would have made them valuable assistants to the American representatives if not chosen as commissioners themselves. Major-General Otis will succeed Merritt as military governor and Brigadier-General Anderson will take Otis's place as head of the army corps. General Otis is a very able man and is admirably suited for the position to which he succeeds. He is one of the best informed and most painstaking officers in the American army and has a brilliant record. Brigadier-General Anderson is also a very able man and is admirably suited for the position to which he succeeds. He is one of the best informed and most painstaking officers in the American army and has a brilliant record. Brigadier-General Anderson is also a very able man and is admirably suited for the position to which he succeeds. He is one of the best informed and most painstaking officers in the American army and has a brilliant record.

On Sunday, 28th August, land gale, with wind from S.W. to N.W. Eight Chinese junks while trying to enter Tamsui harbour were lost on the bar and over a hundred lives were lost, only six being saved.

On the night of the 30th the Japanese steamer *River Maru* dragged her anchors and was driven down the harbour towards the bar. She was run ashore near the light-house and prevented for sailing, having apparently exploded a bomb for fire. The force held seemed to be full of powder. Several junks were driven out to sea and are supposed to have been lost.

September 1st.—On leaving Tamsui for Amoy we saw a great number of large, dismasted junks on shore all along the north-west coast. For thirty miles we were passing through large quantities of floating wreckage. Passed a ship's boat bottom up pointed white, cabin doors, etc. When off Tak Sa Point we rescued fourteen Chinese seamen who were floating on the top part of a ship's deck house. They stated they were part of the crew of the American barque *Connel*, which after being partly dismasted, was driven ashore on the 30th, and that the captain, his wife, the mate and four of the crew had been drowned when they drifted from the wreck. The captain and his wife, they said, were washed to the mizen rigging and the seas were washing over them. Shortly afterwards the wreck disappeared. The *Connel* left Amoy for Newchwang on the 26th August with a cargo of sugar. One of the Captain's daughters is staying with friends in Amoy.

THE KWANGSI REBELLION.

An imperial decree was issued on the 24th August depriving Governor Wang, of Kwangsi, of his duties, on account of his dilatoriness in subduing the rebellion. He is now allowed one month in which to bring the rising to an end, failing which he is to be severely dealt with. The decree further states that His Majesty places no confidence in the statements contained in the memorial presented to the Throne by the Governor some time ago to the effect that many victories had been gained by the Imperial troops over the rebels, as no independent report of the subjugation of the rebellion has yet reached the Peking Government.

THE RISING IN HAINAN.

The position at Nodan continues critical and reinforcements for the Imperial troops are anxiously looked for. The small garrison is holding its own, but is not strong enough to effectively root out the enemy.

On the 14th August the rebels, over a thousand strong, divided themselves into six companies and made an attack on the small force of Commandant Hong, at Kingchow, with the object of obtaining possession of the Imperial arms and ammunition. Commandant Hong met the enemy with four divisions, and a sharp action ensued, in which the rebels lost between ten and twenty killed and from forty to fifty wounded, besides a number of firearms and flags. The action took place near the house recently visited by the American Presbyterian Mission, and on the main road leading to the place they killed several rebels in it.

The only one wounded on the Imperial side was Captain Chiu, of the left guard, who while pursuing the rebels in Nodan market, was shot, but the wound is not of a dangerous character.

Commandant Hong has taken up a position at a place named Wodan, to await reinforcements, for which he is very anxious. His force is not much more than a hundred strong and Nodan being a large place he is afraid that he may not be able to protect it, the neighbouring mission promises against the rebels. The missionaries vacated their house on the 13th August, leaving it by the protection of the authorities. They have sent dispatches to Canton representing the urgent necessity of reinforcements, and Consul Beiles has repeatedly brought the matter to the notice of the Viceroy.

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